

Application No. 10/031,798
Attorney Docket No. PG3681USW

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A method of forming a blister pack comprising contacting a base sheet having a blister pocket containing a product therein with a cover sheet and applying laser energy from a laser to form a hermetically sealing join between said cover sheet and said blister pocket of said base sheet, wherein both the cover sheet and the base sheet comprise at least one layer of metal foil and said join comprises a metal-to-metal join between said metal foil layers.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the base sheet has a plurality of blister pockets therein and laser energy is applied to form a join between the cover sheet and each blister pocket of said base sheet.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the base sheet and cover sheet are elongate and the base sheet has a plurality of blister pockets spaced therealong.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein laser energy is applied to join each blister pocket of the elongate base sheet in a sequential fashion.
5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the laser energy derives from a laser source which is movable relative to the base and cover sheet to enable correct positioning of the join.
6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the laser energy derives from a fixed laser source and the base and cover sheet are movable to enable correct positioning of the join.
7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the laser energy is guidable by means of a guide mechanism to enable correct positioning of the join.

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8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said guide mechanism includes one or more movable mirrors.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the guide mechanism includes one or more galvanometer scanners.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the join has a zig-zag configuration.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the join has a multi-dot configuration.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the join is continuous.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the laser energy is supplied by a laser source having a maximum average power of from 10W to 200W, and a maximum peak power of from 1kW to 10kW.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the laser energy is applicable in continuous fashion.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the laser energy is applicable in pulsed fashion.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the laser source has a pulse width of from 0.5 to 20 microseconds and a maximum pulse energy of from 10 to 100 Joules.

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17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the join has a join width of from 5 μ m to 10mm, preferably from 10 μ m to 1mm, more preferably from 10 to 200 μ m, most preferably from 20 to 100 μ m.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the base sheet and cover sheet comprise material selected from the group consisting of metal foil, an organic polymeric material and paper.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the base sheet and cover sheet comprise different materials.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the base sheet and/or the cover sheet comprises a laminate.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, additionally comprising applying laser energy to form one or more additional joins between each blister pocket.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein said one or more additional joins are concentric to the join.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, additionally comprising foldably interlocking the base sheet with the cover sheet to provide a plurality of join sites therebetween and applying laser energy to form plural joins at each said site.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, additionally comprising applying laser energy to form score lines on the or each cover sheet and/or base sheet.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein said score lines facilitate access to each blister pocket.

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26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the score lines facilitate separation of an individual blister pocket from the blister pack.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the score lines facilitate visual and/or electronic identification of said blister pack and/or blister pocket.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, additionally comprising applying laser energy to cut the blister pack.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, comprising cutting the blister pack to a specifiable shape.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, comprising cutting the blister pack to a specifiable size.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, comprising cutting the blister pack to provide sprocket holes therein.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, comprising cutting semi-circular incisions in the blister pack depressible to form sprocket holes therein.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method is controllable by a computer.

34 -78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the product comprises a medicament.

80. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 79, wherein said medicament is in dry powder, tablet, liquid, paste, cream or capsular form.

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81. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 79, wherein said medicament is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, ipratropium bromide, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates thereof and any mixtures thereof.

82. (Previously presented) Blister pack formable by the method of claim 1.

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